Unauthorised running of train

†2228. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a person had run a passenger train mischievously in the reverse direction, at full speed, from Varanasi to Allahabad recently, leading to the accident of train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take any effective steps to avoid recurrence of such accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 19.07.2001, the empty rake of 556 Dn Passenger train was standing at Manduahdih station. The loco shunter came down from engine and in the same time one miscreat climbed in the cab, interfered with the controls and drove the train in the reverse direction. This accident occurred on Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway. All efforts were made to halt the train and the line was kept clear and set & locked for straight run, detonators were placed, stones thrown to attract attention of youth to stop the train. At last route was set for dead end siding of Allahabad City station, where the train entered and derailed. One unknown person was killed and one RPF Havaldar sustained serious injury. An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 5,000/- was made to injured RPF Havaldar.

(c) and (d) The Shunter who had left the locomotive unattended has been placed under suspension. Intensive monitoring and counselling of Drivers/Shunters are being done so that they do not leave locomotive without following procedure required to ensure safety.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.